therefore, highly desirable that the trees on the slopes should be carefully protected. The Member suggested that, to ensure a never-failing supply of water, the Palaruvi or the Achenkoil river should be diverted, as, in that case, the construction of large reservoirs now contemplated could be avoided. If it was considered a costly scheme, the people were ready to contribute half the cost. The surplus water, if any, could be made available to the people in the adjoining British District also on payment of a cess.

Their next difficulty was scarcity of money; loans on low interest should be advanced.

In common with other parts of the State, the people of Shencottah also had their trouble in regard to cattle, owing to there being no pasture lands for them. Necessary facilities should also be afforded to enable the ryots to have agricultural implements made or repaired at moderate cost. They might also be collected in Depots and sold to ryots at cost price.

The people were also suffering much on account of want of roads, because they could not carry the agricultural products for sale. It would be better if the important ryots were asked to meet and discuss the subject of roads under the presidency of the Executive Engineer and the Assistant Engineer instructed to prepare a list of minor roads requiring improvement.

The Manure Depot in the taluk was working well. It should be supplemented by the opening of an Agricultural Farm.

There was no definite rule or system under which remission of tax was allowed when there was full or partial failure of crops. The Government should call for periodical reports as regards seasonal conditions and crops as in British India.

In conclusion, the Member suggested that, as the dealings of the people of Shencottah were with those in British India, the weights and measures in the latter should be introduced in the Shencottah taluk, as otherwise the people were put to great inconvenience and hardship.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

52. Agricultural difficulties of the Thiruvalla Taluk.

Mr. V. S. Krishna Pillai (Member, Thiruvalla Taluk) described the condition of agriculture in the taluk and the nature of the difficulties the ryots had in connection with *punja* cultivation. The chief difficulties were the encroachments on *chals* and the registry of such encroachments. The Agricultural Loans Regulation should be so amended as to make it more useful to the poor agriculturists. Manure Depots should be opened in all the rural parts. There should also be more grazing lands for cattle.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the old encroachments already registered, it is not practicable to take any action now. If the local officers are kept informed of the encroachments not registered, they would take the necessary steps. Action has already been taken to amend the Agricultural Loans Regulation suitably. The other suggestions of the Member are noted.

53. Want of facilities for *punja* cultivation.

Mr. Joseph Thomas (Member, Changanacherry Taluk) complained that nothing had been done in the past to help the *punja* cultivators of the taluk. He was aware of the efforts of the Agricultural Department to cultivate, as an experimental measure, *punja* lands on scientific methods. In the meanwhile, a scheme had been started to cultivate 1,000 *paras* of *punja* lands under the auspices of the Agricultural Association which was being formed. It would be highly advantageous if an Agricultural Inspector could be specially told off for the experimental cultivation by the Agricultural Association and for such other agricultural matters as would be of use to the Association formed of the ryots of Changanacherry, Kottayam, Alleppey, and Thiruvalla.

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